

REMARKS

The Applicant has carefully considered the official action dated November 26, 2007, and the references cited therein. In the official action, the Examiner rejected claims 17, 22-27, and 55-58 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Yahara (U.S. 4,027,564) and also anticipated by Dotta (U.S. 4,485,713). By way of this response, the Applicant has amended claim 1 and canceled claims 23-26 and 55 without prejudice to their further prosecution. Accordingly, independent claim 17 and dependent claims 22, 27, and 56-58 are pending. By way of this response, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 17 is allowable over the art of record. Independent claim 17 is directed to a rotary press apparatus that includes a first ram having a first journal rotatably coupled to a first stub shaft protruding from a first rotating member at an off-center position relative to a rotational axis of the first rotating member and a second journal rotatably coupled to a second stub shaft protruding from a second rotating member at an off-center position relative to a rotational axis of the second rotating member. The apparatus also includes a second ram having a third journal rotatably coupled to a third stub shaft protruding from a third rotating member at an off-center position relative to a rotational axis of the third rotating member and a fourth journal rotatably coupled to a fourth stub shaft protruding from a fourth rotating member at an off-center position relative to a rotational axis of the fourth rotating member. In addition, the apparatus includes a motor coupled to a first drive member or a second drive member in a direct drive configuration, wherein the first and second drive members cause the first, second, third, and fourth rotating members to rotate causing the first and second rams to travel along opposing paths. Further, the apparatus includes first and second linear guides fixed to the first ram and slideably coupled to the second ram, wherein the first and second linear guides are located on the first and second rams at an offset distance from the first and second journals of the first ram and the third and fourth journals of the second ram.

The Applicant respectfully submits that none of the art of record describes or suggests the recited language of claim 17. Accordingly, independent claim 17 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

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In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and an early favorable action on the merits. If there are any remaining matters that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to refund any overpayment and charge any deficiency in the amount paid in connection with this paper or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2455. In addition, if a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is necessary to maintain the pendency of this case and is not otherwise requested in this case, the Applicant requests that the Commissioner consider this paper to be a petition for an appropriate extension of time and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge the fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(a) corresponding to the needed extension of time to the above deposit account.

Dated: **May 27, 2008**

Respectfully submitted,

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